

Message Text

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13/42

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 COA-02 EB-11 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AECE-00 INT-08 JUSE-00

OMB-01 CIEP-03 CEA-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 AGR-20 FMC-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9598

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR PARA. NUMBERS

LONDON FOR JOHN SAVAGE PASS TO DIPALMA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PLOS, DA

SUBJ: LOS: PROPOSED INTERIM LEGISLATION ON DEEP SEABED
MINING AND 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE

REF: A. STATE 193106, B. CARACAS 8544, C. COPENHAGEN 2077

1. GIVEN SENSITIVITIES OF ISSUES AND UNFORTU-
NATE TIMING, DANES WOULD PREFER THAT S. 1134,
AS AMENDED, AND S. 1988 WERE NOT EVEN UNDER
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CONSIDERATION BY THE CONGRESS. THEY WOULD BE

DISTURBED IF THE BILLS PASSED THE SENATE AND DEEPLY DISTRESSED IF LEGISLATION WERE ADOPTED. WHILE THEIR INTEREST IS MUCH MORE DIRECT IN THE FISHERIES LEGISLATION, THEY WOULD FIND PASSAGE OF BOTH BILLS, OR EITHER, A REGRESSIVE AND IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION BY A MAJOR STATE WHICH SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO TAKE THE LEAD IN REACHING INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS RATHER THAN RESORTING TO UNILATERAL ACTION. THEY WOULD REGARD SUCH UNILATERAL ACTION AS SERIOUSLY PREJUDICING CHANCES OF OBTAINING REASONABLE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON A NEW CODIFICATION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA.

2. SPECIFICALLY, ON THE BILL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HARD MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE DEEP SEABED (S. 1134), WE UNDERSTAND DANISH POSITION FAVORS REGIME OF MIXTURE OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY AND GOVERNMENT LICENSING OF EXPLOITERS. S. 1134 WOULD UNDERCUT THAT POSITION AND INCREASE DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, DANES HAVE NO FORESEEABLE PLANS TOWARD EXPLOITATION OF DEEP SEABEDS THEMSELVES AND THEREFORE NO DIRECT INJURY TO DANISH INTERESTS WOULD APPEAR TO BE INVOLVED.

3. DANISH INTERESTS WOULD MOST DECIDEDLY BE AFFECTED, BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY, BY PASSAGE OF THE 200-MILE FISHERIES BILL (S. 1988). THE DIRECT EFFECT WOULD BE ON FAEROESE FISHING OFF THE U.S. COAST. WHILE A MINOR PART OF THE TOTAL FAEROESE FISHING EFFORT (WE UNDERSTAND MOST OF FAEROESE CATCH IN THAT PART OF WORLD COMES OFF CANADIAN COAST), IT WOULD HAVE BOTH ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EFFECTS. FAEROESE ARE BEING SQUEEZED ELSEWHERE; TO DEPRIVE THEM OF ANOTHER TRADITIONAL FISHERY WOULD PROBABLY INCREASE PRESSURES FOR EXTENSION OF FAEROESE FISHERIES ZONE, LEAD TO FURTHER DEMANDS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM DENMARK AND GENERALLY EXACERBATE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE AND RELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATIONS WITH COPENHAGEN.

4. DANES WOULD ALSO FEAR INDIRECT EFFECTS RESULTING FROM SNOWBALL EFFECT OF U.S. MEASURES, IF PASSED. ICELAND COULD BE EXPECTED TO GO TO 200-MILE ZONE AND NORWEGIANS COULD PROBABLY NOT HOLD BACK FROM EXTENSION OF THEIR OWN FISHERIES ZONE, EVEN THOUGH THIS MIGHT ONLY BE FOR

THEIR NORTHERN WATERS. WHILE FAEROESE HAVE OBTAINED SOME FISHING RIGHTS WITHIN ICELAND'S CURRENT 50-MILE ZONE, THEY HAVE LOST THEIR PREVIOUS FREEDOM. AN ADDITIONAL EXPANSION OF ICELANDIC FISHERIES WATERS WOULD FURTHER RESTRICT THEM. THE SAME WOULD HOLD FOR FAEROESE AND DANISH FISHERMEN SHOULD NORWEGIANS EXPAND THEIR ZONE. IF NORWEGIANS DID SO ONLY FOR NORTHERN WATERS, DANISH FISHERY WOULD DIRECTLY ONLY BE marginally AFFECTED, BUT IT WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY PROBABLE MOVEMENT OF SOVIET AND UK FISHERMEN DOWN TO NORTH SEA WATERS.

5. FURTHER EVIDENCE OF STRONG DANISH REACTION TO UNILATERAL EXTENSION OF FISHERIES ZONE WAS GIVEN RECENTLY BY DANISH FISHERIES MINISTER (REF C) WHO WARNED ICELAND PUBLICLY THAT UNILATERAL MOVE TO 200 MILES COULD CAUSE SHARP RETALIATION BY EC AND LEAD TO WIDESPREAD FISHERY CONFLICTS. DANISH MINISTER TOOK SOMEWHAT EXTREME POSITION, NOT SUPPORTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT, BUT HIS COMMENTS WERE INDICATIVE OF CONSTERNATION WHICH DANES WOULD FEEL IF A MAJOR STATE, SUCH AS THE U.S., LEGITIMATIZED SUCH UNILATERAL STEPS. DANES SEE THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL; THEY KNOW THEY WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH GREATER RESTRICTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES, BUT THEY WANT THESE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN ORDERLY FASHION AND THROUGH INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS.
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